

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 13 and 14 are pending in this application, the independent claims being claims 1, 5, 7, 13 and 14. By this Amendment, claims 6, 9-12 15 and 16 are canceled, and claims 1, 5 and 7 are amended.

Summary of the Official Action and Advisory Action

In the May 17, 2005 Official Action, claims 1-4, 8-12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,671,614 (Weisman).

In the August 30, 2005 Advisory Action, the Examiner refused to enter Applicant's Amendment filed August 17, 2005. The present Amendment replaces the Amendment filed August 17, 2005, but unentered.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowed Subject Matter

Initially, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, that claims 13 and 14 are allowed, and that claims 5-7 are allowable over the prior art.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, and solely to advance prosecution of the application to issue, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 6 that were indicated as allowable, and claim 6 has been canceled.

Claims 5 and 7 have been re-written in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 9-12, 15 and 16 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Applicant reserves all rights to the subject matter recited in

claims 9-12, 15 and 16, including the right to file a continuation application directed to the subject matter.

Entry of Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments thus respectfully is requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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JAO:CPW/eks

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 15, 2005

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